

REMARKS

The present amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated April 12, 2006, which set a three-month period for response, making this amendment due by July 12, 2006.

Claims 1, 4-13 and 16-33 are pending in this application.

In the Office Action, claim 18 was objected to for an informality. Claims 1-2, 4-8, 10 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,832,082 to Nagai. Claims 1, 7, 16, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,180,299 to Tolerson. Claim 9 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagai in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,627,589 to Hotsumi. Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagai. Claims 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagai in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,810,238 B1 to Deeds et al.

The Applicants notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 3 and 17 if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In the present amendment, claim 18 has been amended to address the objection.

Claim 1 has been amended to add the features of claim 2 and allowable claim 3, both of which were canceled.

New claim 19 was added, which incorporates the features of claim 1, claim 13, and allowable claim 17.

Thus, both claims 1 and 19 are allowable by including of the allowable subject matter of claims 3 and 17, respectively.

New claims 20-32 have been added, which depend ultimately from new claim 19 and which include the features of original dependent claims 2-12, 16, and 18, respectively.

Finally, new, independent claim 33 has been added, which includes the features of claims 1, 5, 7, 8, and further defines that "the pivoting ratchet (35) is prevented from moving by means of a securing catch (61), and wherein an axle (62) of the securing catch (61) is connected to a closing cylinder of a lock (37)".

The cited references do not disclose all of the features of new claim 33. Nagai shows latches 24, 25, but does not disclose locking latches with a lock. Hotsumi fails to show a pivoting ratchet which is prevented from moving by a lock. Therefore, claim 33 also should be allowable over the art of record.

The Applicants submit respectfully that this application stands in condition for allowance. Action to this end is courteously solicited. Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call in order to discuss appropriate claim language that will place the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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